

I look forward to meeting with you when you visit Ireland next summer. I can assure you of a hearty *cead mile failte*, and repaying the generous hospitality you have offered to us this evening.

On the day the talks were concluded (Good Friday) I was attending the spring conference of the Inter Parliamentary Union in Namibia. I was delighted to receive the best wishes from international parliamentarians on the successful outcome of the talks. It was pleasing that during the conference the Inter Parliamentary Council congratulated all concerned on the outcome of the talks and a letter expressing those congratulations, signed by the president of the council, Señor Miguel Angel Martinez of Spain, was forwarded by me to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

As Irish politicians, it encourages us greatly to know that we can count on U.S. support. The two groups in Congress with a strong interest in Ireland—the Friends of Ireland and the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs demonstrates to us the interest of the United States to hearing of the happenings in Ireland. One of the practical ways in which this is shown by Congress is through the support for the International Fund for Ireland. Your desire to address the economic impact of the troubles through voting each year economic assistance to the fund assists its efforts to bring economic hope to the most disadvantaged areas. Since its inception the fund has supported in excess of 3,400 individual projects involving expenditure of over \$350m. These projects have helped to create in excess of 29,000 jobs. Total investment related to expenditure to the fund amounts to over \$900m as public and private sectors sources also contribute to the fund. The delegation visiting Ireland last year availed of the opportunity to visit some of the projects which have been assisted by the fund.

We in Ireland identify with the success of our Emigrant communities around the world but especially here in the United States where, I believe, some 44 million claim some Irish ancestry. It is hardly surprising therefore that many of the households in Ireland have American cousins. Our emigrants here in the United States have played a huge role in making it the most powerful nation in the world. We in Ireland owe a great deal of gratitude to countries like America. Just over one hundred and fifty years ago, the Great Irish famine was at its worst. Ireland was devastated as over one million people died of starvation with another one million emigrating in its immediate aftermath. The majority of those emigrating came to the United States in conditions of incredible hardship with nothing to sustain them when they got there, except a willingness for hard work and an overwhelming desire to succeed. Most Americans can identify with the quintessential story of the emigrant. The U.S. has continued to provide a home from home for Irish people ever since those dark days of famine.

In more recent years the United States has become the adopted home for many of our young emigrants. We are particularly grateful for the role played by our friends in Congress in securing visas for them under the Donnelly, Morrison and Schumer Schemes. As our economy has bounded ahead in recent years, the nature of emigration has changed. Many of our emigrants now return home to Ireland bringing vital skills learned in America, having made a real contribution while they are here. We know these are difficult issues, but we strongly urge you, in both our interests, to continue to make provision for our young people to come to the U.S. and to learn the American way.

The strong presence of foreign investment has been one of the keys to our recent econ-

omy success. Therefore it goes without saying that the United States, with over 500 companies, is the largest single investor in Ireland and has played a critical role in the growth of our economy. These U.S. firms are not coming to Ireland out of altruism. They are coming for a variety of reasons, not least of which is that, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Ireland is the most profitable location for U.S. investment in Europe.

A number of U.S. companies have announced several major projects in job creation—Boston Scientific Expansion plans of 40m with over 2,050 jobs being created, Oxford Health Plans—500 jobs in insurance claims processing, Bausch and Lomb—650 jobs and Hewlett Packard's announcement of a second investment at its Leixlip plant with an expected 2,000 employees by 1997 to mention but a few.

While there are no official figures available on the value of Irish investment in the U.S., several of our major Irish companies including Smurfit, Masstock, James Crean, Bank of Ireland, AIB, Kerry Group, Avonmore and Bord Baine have already acquired substantial interests here.

There are a myriad of historical connections that bind our two countries. One of the areas that stands out is our common interest in the democratic process and politics in general. Irishman and women have distinguished themselves right across the U.S. in Federal, State and local politics. As you know a number of Irishmen were signatories to the Declaration of Independence. I have earlier referred to Senator Ted Kennedy whose great-grandfather came from New Ross which is located just a stone's throw from my own constituency of Carlow-Kilenny, a constituency I have had the honour of representing for nearly 37 years. I am therefore the only sitting member who was present in the House to hear the addresses of the 3 American presidents during joint sittings of the Houses of the Oireachtas—President John F. Kennedy was the first distinguished guest to address the Houses when he visited Ireland in 1963, President Reagan did so in 1984 and more recently we had the address of President Clinton.

I am looking forward to our working sessions here in Washington over the next few days. It may be that we may only manage to scratch the surface on a number of issues but we will try to cover as much ground as possible. I wish all the participants in the sessions every good wish.

I will conclude now Mr. Speaker by thanking you once again for hosting this dinner in our honour. It has been a privilege to meet with you and to discuss with you matters of mutual interest.

I would ask you all to raise your glass to the continued success of Ireland/U.S. parliamentary friendship.

“BREAKING THE RULES”

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, among the outstanding civil servants working for the people of Chicago is my good friend, Lois Weisberg. As Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, Lois has sponsored a series of cultural events which have brought a glow to the City of Chicago and to Mayor Richard Daley.

Today, an article appears in The Chicago Sun Times which truly delineates the warm

active personality and character of Lois Weisberg. I am sure my colleagues will enjoy reading this perceptive account of her life and activities:

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, May 6, 1998]

BREAKING THE RULES

RENEGADE ARTS MAVEN ADORES HER JOB

(By Lori Rotenberk)

Her movements and the rapidity of her speech defy age. Both are nonstop.

So, too, her brain. And so, too, the puffs on her cigarette (“I’m quitting!”) sending a snake of smoke from her ruby lips.

Every little thing about her seems to travel at the speed of sound. Even her black city-issued car, as it pulls out of a downtown alley and into the Chicago night.

The cops wouldn’t dare.

Lois Weisberg, the city’s renegade Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, turns 73 today. In her eighth decade, she is still a woman who treads the fringe.

“Ugh. I can’t work where everybody follows the rules,” Weisberg says. “My whole life has been about breaking rules.”

This attitude has helped her leave a dramatic mark on the city—even if you don’t know her, you know the programs she has created over the years, Blues Fest, Gospel Fest, many ethnic fests, the watchdog group Friends of the Park.

A typical idea: She put a birthday hat on the Picasso at Daley Center to celebrate the statue’s birthday. “Everyone thought I was crazy when I suggested it. They didn’t know how to do it. I didn’t know how to do it. Then I found a group of Mexican nuns who made papier-mache. They delivered it in a big truck. And that’s when I began to learn how to get around all of the bureaucracy.”

Last month, Weisberg received an award from the Illinois Arts Council for her contribution to city arts and culture. Soon, one of her favorite programs, Gallery 37, the nationally recognized student summer art program in the Loop, will raise its tent along State Street.

Weisberg is the scratch to Mayor Daley’s itch.

What he dares to imagine, she’s damned to create.

To say she loves her work is a mistake. Weisberg adores it, lives it. She stays awake until 3 a.m., answering all of her own correspondence. “Everything I see, hear and do gives me an idea,” she says.

Acquaintances and friends alike speak of her huge and good heart. Weisberg admits she can’t say no to anyone. “I try to do something for everyone who asks me for help,” she says.

“Lois Weisberg is one of those unique people who can think very creatively and very practically at the same time,” Daley says. “I can call Lois with an idea and know without a doubt that she will find a way to make it happen.”

Born on this day in 1925, Weisberg grew up in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood. She walked the streets with her nose always dug into a book, the odd child “of two perfectly normal parents.” Later, she briefly attended the University of Illinois, then transferred to Northwestern, where she graduated with a degree in radio. “Right at the end of its golden age,” Weisberg says accusingly. “I couldn’t find a job anywhere because television was coming in. So I got a job writing a TV program called ‘Baby Talk,’ a simply horrible program.”

She winces at the memory. She wears eyeglasses studded with rhinestones, lighting up that Muppet face like the Chicago Theatre marquee, and clatters around the mosaic floor of the Cultural Center in white leather boots, faux fuzzy fur around their ankle-high tops.

Friends say Weisberg, a widow for several years, sorely misses her late husband, Bernard, who was her best friend. She has two grown sons, Jacob and Joseph.

But she doesn't lack for interests.

"Would you like to know the things I really love doing?" she asks, "Riding the Broadway and Clark Street buses, just to keep in touch with humanity. And I like to sit up in the front with a bunch of grocery bags." An avid gardener, Weisberg also likes country music and collects egg cups and frogs.

Since she so dislikes rules, what is the last she may have broken?

"I can't tell you," Weisberg jokes. "But I do drink martinis or straight vodka, and that makes me a drinking, smoking, horrible person."

Hardly. There was a time, too, when Weisberg was an antsy housewife who preferred to keep her hands in the arts rather than the dishwasher.

Having always had a yen to direct, she pulled together actors to form the Chicago Drama Quartet.

Weisberg combed books for plays to perform and one day came across George Bernard Shaw's *Back to Methuselah*. "I didn't know a thing about Shaw," she says.

The Burgess Meredith dropped in on a performance. Assuming Weisberg was a Shaw scholar, he asked her to speak to a group of fellow actors about the great Irish playwright. She found a book about him and learned Shaw had been born exactly 100 years before.

"I read the first page and never read past that," Weisberg explains. "It said Bernard Shaw was born on July 26, 1856. I had never heard anything about this man, this great writer who was having a 100th anniversary and no one knew it."

So she made sure everyone would know.

Weisberg invited guests from around the world to celebrate Shaw. She made the papers worldwide with stories about the Glencoe housewife who was so good as to remember Shaw when everyone else forgot. The New York Times wrote an editorial, and Chicago became the Shaw capital. The Sherman Hotel, at the request of Weisberg, created the Bernard Shaw Room, and his plays were performed there for several years. In it was born the Bernard Shaw Society, then the Shaw newsletter.

Around that time, Weisberg received a call from a friend at the University of Chicago. The campus magazine, *Big Table*, was being censored, and its writers had invited the beat poets of the era to town to raise money for the publication. Would she lend a hand?

Weisberg gave them the Shaw room, where Allen Ginsberg would give the first public reading of "Howl." She advertised that anyone with a beard would get in free. The line of bearded men would around the block. The beats were front-page news for days.

Ginsberg stayed in touch with her.

"Allen would send postcards from all his travels," Weisberg recalls. "I have postcard on the wall somewhere here that says, 'Lois, you have to try this LSD.' I didn't even know what it was."

Then she began an underground newspaper called the *Paper*, in which she interviewed jazz and literary greats. Dizzy Gillespie was one of her great friends.

From there it was on to head the department of public affairs for the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Then on to a public interest law firm and later the executive director of the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

Paid political life began in the 1980's when she joined the administration of Mayor Harold Washington and became head of special events. Discouraged to be working with a 'zero budget,' she informed fans of Venetian Night that there would be no fireworks that

summer. "But come out anyway," she urged at a speech, "and enjoy the air. It's free."

So was she until Daley recruited Weisberg as his special assistant. Since then, the city hasn't been quite the same.

Last year, when Illinois poet laureate Gwendolyn Brooks turned 80. Weisberg made sure Brooks' poems were handed out at L stops and passed out by patrol officers on bikes along the lakefront.

Oh, and there's plenty more. Weisberg promises. And the ideas spill and spill. Are you going to stay forever, until you are way up there in your 70's? Weisberg is asked. "I love, love my work," is all she will answer.

THE 23D ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM TO COMMUNISM

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of an important anniversary. Last week marked the 23rd anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam to Communism and the end of the Vietnam War. I was reminded of this date by a newspaper column written by the Army's 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, New York, Commander, Major General Lawson W. Magruder III. He marked the occasion by sharing his personal reflections on his time and service in Vietnam. I would like to share his column with our colleagues so that we may also remember the brave men and women who served this country in Vietnam.

[From the Fort Drum Sentinel, Apr. 30, 1998]

(By Maj. Gen. Lawson W. Magruder III)

April 30 marks the 23rd anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam to Communism and the end of the Vietnam War. For this reason, April has always been a month of reflection about what the Vietnam War meant to me. It is a time for me to recall the lesson I learned over 27 years ago when I returned from Vietnam. I'd like to share some thoughts with you:

My last day in Vietnam evoked many emotions as I waited for the big "freedom bird" to wing me back to Texas and a reunion with my wife, Gloria, and 15-month old daughter, Shannon. It was a day filled with sadness, anticipation, relief, hope, excitement, and pride. Sadness over the soldiers I had led and grown to love in a special way who were never to return to their families; anticipation over my future and the future of our Army as we both transitioned to a period of peace; relief that my separation from my loved ones had gone without serious injury or illness; hope that our lives would quickly return to normal and that our nation would soon withdraw from the war without major casualties and that South Vietnam would succeed on its own against Communism; excitement about returning to Gloria and Shannon and closing out an important chapter in my young career and returning to the 82d Airborne Division to command a company; and pride in having served my soldiers, my Army, and my country honorably in the toughest environment. With the exception of my feeling of sadness, it was a composite of so many of the same emotions I had felt previously in my life on the day of a major event: the first day at a new school, "season openers," graduation from high school and college, commissioning day, reporting to my

first unit, and my departure one year earlier from Austin Airport for Vietnam.

Aside from the already described feelings, on my last day in Vietnam I took stock of the four most important lessons I learned during the year—lessons that I have carried with me over the past 27 years of my career. First, it magnified for me the words from my oath of commission: "...to obey the orders of the President and the officers appointed over me..." and my father's advice (a veteran of three wars) to obey orders no matter how distasteful they may be unless they are illegal or immoral. I learned quickly as an infantry rifle platoon leader in combat that my job was not to question the prosecution of an unpopular war but to obey legal orders and lead my soldiers to the best of my ability in the accomplishment of difficult tasks. The second lesson learned was that a leader should only focus on his "piece of the Army" and make it the most professional team in the organization. I saw to many leaders in combat worry about "higher" at the expense of readiness and caring for their soldiers. Third, the basics that leaders demand in training work in combat and result in winning engagements and the saving of lives. I learned that even with the most dynamic tactics you will fail without adherence to the basics. Leaders must set and demand high standards from their subordinates to win! The last lesson that I took away from Vietnam was the importance of faith and family in one's life. Combat magnified for me the frailty of human life and the absolute importance of having a "true azimuth" in your life. Because I was at peace with the Lord and knew that I was supported on the "homefront" by a loving and supportive wife and family, I never worried about not coming home. Consequently, then and today I am able to devote myself totally to the leadership of America's finest Light Fighters.

We are all "defined" by our past experiences. My experiences in Vietnam is an important part of my makeup and being. It will always be with me, and even though many view the Vietnam War as a "lost cause," I, along with thousands of other vets, am proud of our service many years ago in that sad country in Southeast Asia. May we never forget those brave men and women who fought for democracy in Vietnam. Let me close with this special quote that I've kept under my desk glass for the past 26 years:

"If you are able, save for them a place inside of you. . . and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go. . . Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not have always. . . Take what they have left and what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own. . . And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind. . ."—Maj. Michael Davis O'Donnell, Springfield IL, 1 January 1970.

IN HONOR OF THE CONGREGATION OF SAINT JOSEPH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Congregation of Saint Joseph on the 125th anniversary of their service to the Greater Cleveland community. The Saint Joseph Congregation is dedicated to the improvement and education of the community.